

Amendments To The Claims:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously present), or (not entered).

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) ~~A~~The turbine engine exhaust diffuser of ~~Claim 1~~ having a tunable exhaust velocity profile, comprising:

_____ an outer boundary member extending along a central axis;

_____ an inner boundary member located radially-inward of said outer boundary member and extending along said central axis;

_____ an exhaust flowpath disposed between said outer and inner boundary members;

_____ a flow deflecting member operatively connected to the inner boundary member and disposed within said flowpath, said flow deflecting member longitudinally dividing said flowpath into a first region characterized by a first predetermined velocity profile and a second region characterized by a second predetermined velocity profile, said second predetermined velocity profile being determined by at least one pre-selected dimension of said flow deflecting member,

wherein said flow deflecting member is adapted to produce a substantially-uniform radial velocity distribution of fluid within said second region.

3. (withdrawn)

4. (withdrawn)

5. (currently amended) The turbine engine exhaust diffuser of Claim 21, wherein said flow deflecting member is a substantially-continuous component extending circumferentially around said inner boundary member.

6. (original) The turbine engine exhaust diffuser of Claim 5, wherein said flow deflecting member extends radially away from said central axis a distance effective to divert fluid flowing through said flowpath toward said outer boundary sleeve.

7. (currently amended) The turbine engine exhaust diffuser of Claim 21, wherein said flow deflecting member includes a guide surface adapted to direct fluid flowing therepast toward said outer boundary sleeve.

8. (original) The turbine engine exhaust diffuser of Claim 7, wherein said guide surface is substantially-linear.

9. (currently amended) The turbine engine exhaust diffuser of Claim 8, wherein said guide surface forms an angle with said central axis less than about forty-five degrees.

10. (currently amended) The turbine engine exhaust diffuser of Claim 21, wherein said inner boundary sleeve includes a non-tapered first portion characterized by a first outer radius measured from said central axis and a tapered second portion, said flow deflecting member being disposed within said second portion.

11. (original) The turbine engine exhaust diffuser of Claim 10, wherein said flow deflecting member extends radially away from said central axis by a second outer radius substantially equal to said first outer radius.

12. (withdrawn)

13. (withdrawn)

14. (currently amended) The turbine engine exhaust diffuser of Claim 21, wherein said flowpath includes a first zone adapted to induce a first pressure drop within fluid passing therethrough and a second zone adapted to induce a second pressure drop within fluid passing therethrough.

15. (original) The turbine engine exhaust diffuser of Claim 14, wherein said flow deflecting member is located within said second zone.

16. (withdrawn)

17. (withdrawn)